

CLAIMS

1. A thermal blanket for covering and bathing a person  
2 in a thermally-controlled inflating medium, comprising:

4 a flexible base sheet having a head end, a foot  
end, two edges, and a plurality of apertures;

6 an overlaying flexible material sheet attached to  
8 a first surface of said base sheet by a plurality of  
10 discontinuous seams which form said overlaying material  
sheet into a plurality of communicating, inflatable  
chambers, said apertures opening through said base  
sheet into said chambers; and

12 a continuous seam between said overlaying material  
sheet and said base sheet at said head end which forms  
14 a non-inflatable viewing area in said blanket at said  
head end, said non-inflatable viewing area being  
16 substantially coplanar with, or parallel to, said base  
sheet.

2. The thermal blanket of claim 1 wherein said base  
sheet includes an undersheet of flexible fibrous material  
and a sheet of plastic material coextensive with and  
4 attached to said undersheet.

2. The thermal blanket of claim 1 wherein said base  
sheet includes a multi-layered structure in which the  
bottommost layer is a paper sheet bonded to an upper sheet  
4 of plastic material.

4. The thermal blanket of claim 2 wherein said  
2 discontinuous seams are substantially elongate, formed seals  
between said overlaying material sheet and sheet of plastic  
4 material.

5. The thermal blanket of claim 2 wherein one of said  
2 discontinuous seams includes a sequence of collinear, formed  
seals extending from said foot end to said head end.

6. The thermal blanket of claim 5 wherein said  
2 plurality of discontinuous seams form said overlaying  
material sheet into a plurality of mutually parallel,  
4 communicating tubular chambers.

7. The thermal blanket of claim 1 including an exhaust  
2 port opening through said material sheet adjacent one of  
said edges for venting an inflating medium from said  
4 chambers and away from said base sheet.

8. The thermal blanket of claim 1 including a  
2 patterned array of apertures opening through said underside  
into said chambers, said patterned array comprising a  
4 density pattern in which the density of said apertures  
increases toward one of said edges.

9. The thermal blanket of claim 6 including a  
2 patterned array of apertures, said apertures opening through  
said base sheet into said chambers, said patterned array  
4 comprising a density pattern in which the density of said  
apertures increases toward one of said edges.

10. The thermal blanket of claim 9 wherein one of said  
2 tubular chambers is centrally positioned in said parallel  
4 tubular chambers and said density increases from said  
centrally positioned chamber toward one of said edges.

11. The thermal blanket of claim 10 wherein no  
2 apertures open through said base sheet into said centrally  
4 positioned tubular chamber.

12. The thermal blanket of claim 11 wherein no  
2 apertures open through said base sheet into a tubular  
4 chamber adjacent one of said edges.

13. A thermal blanket comprising:  
2 a self-erecting inflatable covering with a head  
4 end, a foot end, two edges, and an undersurface;  
6 an inflating inlet adjacent said foot end for  
8 admitting a thermally-controlled inflating medium;  
10 an array of apertures in said undersurface for  
12 exhausting a thermally controlled inflating medium from  
14 said covering;  
10 an exhaust port opening in said inflatable covering  
12 for venting an inflating medium from adjacent an edge  
14 of said inflatable covering and away from said  
undersurface; and  
10 a flat uninflatable section at said head end for  
12 upper body viewing.

14. The thermal blanket of claim 13, wherein said  
2 pattern of said array of apertures increases the density of  
said apertures from a central location on said undersurface  
4 in a direction toward a first one of said edges.

15. The thermal blanket of claim 14 wherein the  
2 pattern of said array of apertures increases the density of  
said apertures from said central location in a direction  
4 toward the second of said edges.

16. A thermal blanket for covering and bathing a  
2 person in a thermally-controlled medium, comprising:

4 a flexible base sheet having a head end, a foot  
end, two edges, and a plurality of apertures;

6 an overlaying plastic sheet attached to a first  
surface of said base sheet by a plurality of  
8 discontinuous seams which form said plastic sheet into  
a plurality of communicating inflatable chambers, said  
10 apertures opening through said base sheet into said  
chambers;

12 a continuous seam between said plastic sheet and  
said base sheet at said head end which forms a non-  
inflatable viewing recess; and

14 an exhaust vent through said overlaying plastic  
sheet and adjacent a first, opening from a first  
16 inflatable chamber adjacent said first edge, for  
venting an inflating medium away from said base sheet,  
18 and away from a second inflatable chamber.

17. The thermal blanket of claim 16 including an  
2 absorbent bib attached to the head end of said base sheet.

18. A thermal blanket for covering and bathing a  
2 person in a thermally-controlled medium, comprising:

4 a flexible base sheet having a head end, a foot  
end, two edges, and a plurality of apertures;

6 an overlaying plastic sheet attached to a first  
surface of said base sheet by a plurality of  
8 discontinuous seams which form said plastic sheet into  
a plurality of communicating inflatable chambers, said  
10 apertures opening through said base sheet into said  
chambers;

12 a continuous seam between said plastic sheet and  
said base sheet at said head end which forms a non-  
inflatable viewing recess; and

14 an absorbent bib attached to the head end of said  
base sheet.

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19. A thermal blanket, comprising:  
2 a self-erecting inflatable covering with a head  
end, a foot end, two edges, and an undersurface;  
4 an inflating inlet for admitting a thermally-  
controlled inflating medium;  
6 an array of apertures in said undersurface for  
exhausting a thermally-controlled inflating medium from  
8 said covering;  
10 an uninflatable section at said head end for upper  
body viewing; and  
12 an absorbent bib attached to the head end of said  
inflatable covering.

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